

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. An apparatus for supporting milk extraction devices comprising:
2 an elongated elastic strap that is adjusted to frictionally engage a woman's
3 breasts;
4 a pair of slits formed in the elastic strip, wherein each of the slits is
5 positioned proximate the woman's breasts and configured to support a milk extraction
6 device therethrough; and
7 wherein each of the slits is a collapsible opening that alternates between a
8 closed position when the milk extraction device is not supported by the slit and a partially
9 opened position when the milk extraction device is supported by the slit.
- 1 2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the milk extraction device
2 includes a circular suction device and the elongated elastic strip substantially covers the
3 majority of the surface area of the circular suction device after the suction device is
4 inserted into the slit.
- 1 3. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a neck strap
2 having a first portion and a second portion, wherein a first end of the first portion and a
3 second end of the second portion are attached proximate each of the slits in the elastic
4 strap, and a second end of the first portion is attached to a first end of the second portion.
- 1 4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the first end of the first
2 portion of the neck strap and the second end of the second portion of the neck strap are
3 permanently attached to the elastic strap and the second end of the first portion is
4 temporarily attached to the first end of the second portion.
- 1 5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the elastic strap further
2 includes temporary closure means to adjust the friction between the elastic strap and the
3 woman's breasts.

09920472.000101

1 6. The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the temporary closure means
2 is located between the pair of slits.

1 7. The apparatus according to claim 1, further including a pair of privacy
2 flaps attached above each of the slits and configured to partially cover the milk extraction
3 device.

1 8. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the pair of privacy flaps are
2 temporarily attached to the elastic strap.

1 9. An apparatus for supporting milk extraction devices comprising:
2 an elongated elastic strap that is adjusted to frictionally engage a woman's
3 breasts;
4 a pair of collapsible openings formed in the elastic strip, wherein each of
5 the collapsible openings is positioned proximate the woman's breasts and configured to
6 support a milk extraction device therethrough; and
7 wherein the milk extraction device includes a circular suction cup and the
8 elongated elastic strip substantially covers the majority of the surface area of the circular
9 suction cup when the suction cup is inserted into the collapsible opening.

1 10. The apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising a neck strap
2 having a first portion and a second portion, wherein a first end of first portion and a
3 second end of the second portion are attached proximate each of the collapsible openings
4 in the elastic strap, and a second end of the first portion is attached to a first end of the
5 second portion.

1 11. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the first end of the first
2 portion of the neck strap and the second end of the second portion of the neck strap are

03920473 080101
"2402660"

3 permanently attached to the elastic strap and the second end of the first portion is
4 temporarily attached to the first end of the second portion.

1 12. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the elastic strap further
2 includes temporary closure means to adjust the friction between the elastic strap and the
3 woman's breasts.

1 13. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the temporary closure
2 means is located between the pair of slits.

1 14. The apparatus according to claim 9, further including a pair of privacy
2 flaps attached above each of the slits and configured to partially cover the milk extraction
3 device.

1 15. A nursing/pumping brassiere comprising:
2 a front panel configured to support a woman's breast;
3 a middle panel partially attached to the front panel, wherein the middle
4 panel includes a slit formed therein and positioned proximate the woman's breast,
5 wherein the slit supports a milk extraction device therethrough and alternates between a
6 closed position when the milk extraction device is not supported by the slit and a partially
7 opened position when the milk extraction device is supported by the slit;
8 a rear panel adjacent to the woman's breast, wherein the rear panel
9 includes attachment means for supporting the middle panel.

1 16. The nursing/pumping brassiere according to claim 15, wherein the
2 attachment means includes a plurality of eyes, and the middle panel includes a hook
3 configured to engage one of the plurality of hooks.

09920472 080104

1 17. The nursing/pumping brassiere according to claim 16, wherein the front
2 panel includes a hook configured to engage one of the plurality of hooks on the rear
3 panel.

1 18. The nursing/pumping brassiere of claim 17, wherein the front panel
2 includes a first snap closure configured to engage a second snap closure attached to the
3 middle panel.

1 19. The nursing/pumping brassiere according to claim 17, wherein the front
2 panel is unhooked to expose the slit in the middle panel when the slit supports the milk
3 extraction device.

1 20. The nursing/pumping brassiere according to claim 17, wherein the front
2 panel and the middle panel are unhooked to expose the woman's breast to nurse a baby.

09977777 080701